

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 NEA-10 /093 W

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R 090200Z OCT 76

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6530

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 2043

NOFORN

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH

SUBJECT: CHINESE VERDICT ON CHIAO'S UN SPEECH: NOTHING NEW

REF: HONG KONG 11739

1. THE CHINESE HAVE PROVIDED TEXT OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA'S POLICY ADDRESS TO THE 31ST UNGA TO A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN PEKING AND HAVE ACTIVELY SOLICITED FOREIGN REACTION.

2. VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG, IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH AUSTRALIANS ON ANOTHER MATTER, ASKED FOR AUSTRALIAN ASSESSMENT OF CHIAO'S SPEECH. WHEN AUSTRALIANS REPLIED THAT THEY SAW NOTHING NEW, HAN NODDED APPROVINGLY, SAYING "THAT IS SO. THE IMPORTANT THING ABOUT THE SPEECH IS THAT IT AFFIRMS CONTINUITY OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY."

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3. ASKED FOR HIS READING OF THE SPEECH BY A FOREIGN MINISTRY DESK OFFICER, AN INDIAN DIPLOMAT RESPONDED THAT WHILE THE GENERAL OUTLINE WAS THE SAME THERE WERE A FEW NUANCES THAT INTRIGUED HIM. THE MFA OFFICER CUT IN SHARPLY, ADMONISHING "NO, NO, THAT'S WRONG. THE SPEECH'S CONTENT IS ABSOLUTELY THE SAME AS BEFORE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT CHAIRMAN MAO'S LINE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS."

4. COMMENT: CHINESE HANDLING OF CHAIO'S SPEECH STRIKES US AS HAVING AS MUCH RELIANCE TO DOMESTIC AS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. ALLOCATION OF THE ENTIRE FRONT PAGE OF PEOPLE'S DAILY AND KWANGMING DAILY TO THE TEXT IS UNPRECEDENTED; IN THE PAST THE ADDRESS OCCUPIED A COLUMN OR TWO ON PAGE ONE AND WAS CONTINUED ON INSIDE PAGES. WHETHER OR NOT THE SPEECH GLOSSES OVER SENSITIVE ISSUES (REFTEL), IT DOES CONSTITUTE FOR THE CHINESE PEOPLE A DRAMATIC AFFIRMATION OF CONTINUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY. IN ADDITION, IT MAY WELL ELEVATE THE PRESTIGE OF FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO AS THE INDISPENSIBLE FOREIGN POLICY TECHNOCRAT.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PEKING02043
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760381-1222
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761064/aaaacdxn.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Reference: 76 HONG KONG 11739
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <03 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHINESE VERDICT ON CHIAO'S UN SPEECH: NOTHING NEW
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CH, (CHIAO KUAN-HUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006